

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 938

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Robert H. "Bob"
Owen of Gleason.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Mr. Robert H. "Bob" Owen of Gleason; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Owen was born February 19, 1927 in the Old Union Community of Henry County, the son of the late Robert O. and Katie Hillfill Owen; and

WHEREAS, he attended the public schools of Henry County and graduated from Cottage Grove High School. He attended Bethel College and graduated from the Tennessee School of Banking at Vanderbilt; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Owen bravely served his country as a member of the United States Army during the Korean Conflict, after having begun his banking career at the Bank of Gleason in 1944; and

WHEREAS, Bob Owen was elected an officer of the bank in 1947, was elected to the Board of Directors in 1954, and was chosen President and CEO in 1965. He was appointed Chairman of the Board in 1993, serving with remarkable acumen and leadership. He also served as President of Bancshares of Gleason, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, widely respected in banking circles, Mr. Owen served as President of the Tennessee Bankers Association in 1992 and 1993 and was a past director of the State and Federal Legislative Committee of the TBA, serving in both Nashville and Washington, D. C.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Owen was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; he served on the board of the West Tennessee Public Utility District and was a past director of the Methodist Hospital of McKenzie; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Weakley County, Bob Owen was a highly respected member of the Gleason community. He served on the City of Gleason Industrial Committee, was a twenty-five year member of the Weakley County Jury Commission, was a partner in both the Finch-Owen Insurance Agency and Travillian-Owen Farms and was a former board member of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Owen served as Mayor of the City of Gleason from 1957 to 1959, was a past commander of the Gleason American Legion, Post 166, a 32nd Degree Mason and a Shriner, a Charter member and past President of the Gleason Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow; and

WHEREAS, Bob's outstanding leadership role in Gleason and Weakly County lead to numerous honors, including an Outstanding Citizenship Award in 1959, being named Boss of the Year by the local Jaycee Chapter in 1979, the City of Gleason "Bob Owen Day" in 1982 and being Grand Marshall of the Tatertown Special parade in 1979 and 1990; and

WHEREAS, Bob Owen demonstrated his faith in his creator as an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church ; and

WHEREAS, Bob Gleason was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Owen enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Peggy Kemp Wimberly Owen, and was the proud parent of Robert, Alan and Eric, children of his first wife, the

late Darreen Shaw Owen. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, a sister Mary Elizabeth Travillian and a brother Oscar R. Owen; and

WHEREAS, Bob Owen leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional business leader, public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Robert H. "Bob" Owen, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living an exemplary life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Bob Owen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.